

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 081000Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9902

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T CAIRO 1644

EXDIS

FOR KONTOS FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, OTRA

SUBJECT: SINAI FIELD FORCES: PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES -

PARA 6 OF U.S. PROPOSAL

REF: STATE 030932

1. SOME WAY MUST OBVIOUSLY BE FOUND TO ASSURE THAT PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR SFM LIAISON PERSONNEL, AS SET FORTH IN PARA 6 OF U.S. PROPOSAL, AND FOR THEIR DEPENDENTS RESIDENT IN CAIRO, ARE IMPLEMENTED. I THINK IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO PUT THEM ON EMBASSY DIPLOMATIC LIST, SINCE THEY ARE NOT MEMBERS OF MY STAFF AND ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE TO ME. POSSIBILITY OF A SEPARATE LIST, WHICH COULD APPEAR AT END OF MFA LIST WITH OTHER SPECIAL DELEGATION, IS WORTH EXPLORING.

2. BEFORE FORMALLY NOTIFYING GOE OF OUR VIEWS, I THOUGHT IT BEST SOUND OUT FONMIN'S CHEF DE CABINET, OSAMA AL-BAZ, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN ALEXANDRIA NEGOTIATIONS ON DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE LANGUAGE FOR PARA 6. AL-BAZ'S PRELIMINARY REACTION WAS THAT THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM IN ISSUING SPECIAL ID CARDS FOR SFM LIAISON PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS IN CAIRO. HOWEVER, MFA WILL HAVE TO "PONDER", AS HE PUT IT, WHETHER SFM PERSONNEL SHOULD BE PUT ON DIPLOMATIC LIST AND BE GIVEN CD PLATES. HE ASKED FOR LETTER ON THE SUBJECT, WHICH COULD THEN BE "STUDIED" BY MFA LEGAL

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AND PROTOCOL DEPARTMENTS WITH A VIEW TO MAKING APPROPRIATE

RECOMMENDATIONS TO FAHMY. I TOLD HIM HE WOULD HAVE LETTER TOMORROW AND EMPHASIZED URGENCY OF RESOLVING ISSUE. AL BAZ SAID HE APPRECIATES TIME FACTOR AND ASSURED ME HE WILL DO ALL HE CAN TO EXPEDITE DECISION. HE EXPRESSED SOME REGRET THAT WE HAD NOT RAISED MATTER EARLIER, SINCE IT WILL HAVE TO BE STUDIED.

3. I EXPLAINED WE REGARD PARA 6 OF US PROPOSAL, WHICH GOE HAS ACCEPTED, HAS ALREADY RESOLVED PRINCIPLE OF PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR SFM PERSONNEL AND THAT NOW ONLY MODALITIES HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT. AL BAZ AGREED THAT GOE HAS ACCEPTED PRINCIPLE, BUT INSISTED HOW THESE ARE TO BE IMPLEMENTED REQUIRES "STUDY". WITH SOME RESENTMENT, HE COMMENTED THAT, DURING ALEXANDRIA NEGOTIATIONS, US SIDE HAD NOT PERMITTED EGYPTIAN SIDE ADEQUATE TIME TO STUDY VARIOUS COMPLEX MATTERS CONNECTED WITH AGREEMENT AND HAD INSTEAD FORCED IT THROUGH. WHILE GOE WILL HONOR ITS OBLIGATIONS, IT IS DETERMINED TO HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO STUDY DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTATION TO BE SURE THAT EGYPTIAN INTERESTS ARE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED. (NOTE: THERE IS CONTINUING DEEP RESENTMENT FROM GAMASY ON DOWN OVER WHAT EGYPTIAN PARTICIPANTS REGARDED AS US EFFORT TO "BULL" THE AGREEMENT THROUGH DURING ALEXANDRIA TALKS.) I DEMURRED, AND INSISTED WE HAD NOT SOUGHT TO PUSH ANYTHING THROUGH WITHOUT ADEQUATE GOE STUDY DURING ALEXANDRIA TALKS. WE APPRECIATE GOE'S NEED TO STUDY OVER REQUEST, BUT URGE THAT DECISION BE EXPEDITED. SFM MUST BE IN PLACE AND OPERATIONAL IN TWO WEEKS TIME AND SOME MEMBERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS WILL BE ARRIVING IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

4. AL BAZ NOTED THAT WHATEVER DECISION GOE REACHES, IT WILL APPLY ONLY TO SFM PERSONNEL HAVING LIAISON RESPONSIBILITIES WITH EGYPT AND THEIR DEPENDENTS RESIDENT IN CAIRO, NOT TO PERSONNEL OR DEPENDENTS WHO RESIDE IN OR HAVE LIAISON RESPONSIBILITIES IN ISRAEL. I POINTED OUT THAT SOME SFM PERSONNEL, SUCH AS SFM DIRECTOR THORNE, WILL HAVE LIAISON RESPONSIBILITIES REQUIRING VISITS TO BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL AND THAT MRS. THORNE IS ONE OF FIVE SFM WIVES WHO WILL RESIDE IN CAIRO.

AL BAZ INDICATED IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MFA COULD HAVE NAMES OF SFM PERSONNEL WHO WILL LIAISE WITH GOE AND OF THOSE DEPENDENTS WHO WILL RESIDE IN CAIRO. ISSUE COULD THEN BE STUDIED IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS RATHER THAN IN THE ABSTRACT. I TOLD HIM WE
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HOPE TO BE ABLE PROVIDE A PRELIMINARY LIST OF NAMES IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

5. COMMENT: APART FROM SENDING AL-BAZ LETTER SETTING FORTH OUR VIEW, I NEED SOONEST LIST OF SFM NAMES AND DEPENDENTS WHO WILL RESIDE IN CAIRO OR HAVE OCCASIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES HERE. AS I HAVE POINTED OUT FOR WEEKS, NOT WITHSTANDING PARA 6 OF US PROPOSAL, WORKING OUT WITH GOE MODALITIES OF PRIVILEGES

AND IMMUNITIES FOR SFM PERSONNEL IN EGYPT IS NO SIMPLY MATTER.
PREDICTABLY, GOE WANTS TO STUDY THE SUBJECT IN TERMS OF SPECIFICS.
THE SOONER WE PROVIDE DESIRED INFORMATION RE NAMES, THE BETTER
ARE OUR CHANCES OF EXPEDITING A DECISION. I AM CONFIDENT, HOWEVER,
THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS THAT ARE
MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, PEACE OBSERVATION MISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO01644
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760048-0235
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760270/aaaacjuf.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 30932
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 OCT 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; WITHDRAWN <06 OCT 2004 by buchant0, 3.4.X9>; RELEASED <08 OCT 2004 by RowellE0>; APPROVED <19 OCT 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINAI FIELD FORCES: PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES - PARA 6 OF U.S. PROPOSAL
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, OTRA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006